



PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR DISTRICT OF ARIZONA ANNOUNCES \$7,952,000 RECEIVED FOR STATE OF ARIZONA 2003 CRIME VICTIM'S FUND

PHOENIX, ARIZONA –Paul Charlton, the United States Attorney for the District of Arizona, announces that on May 19, 2003, the State of Arizona received \$7,952,000 in victim assistance funds and victim compensation funds. These funds will provide support and services to thousands of victims throughout the state.

Money for these annual awards comes from the Crime Victims Fund which is supported primarily by fines paid by federal criminal offenders, not taxpayers. These fines are collected from offenders by the United States Attorneys Office for the District of Arizona, other United States Attorneys Offices, the Bureau of Prisons, and the Federal Courts.

Each year, funding is made available through the fund to provide compensation to victims of crime to lessen their financial burden caused by the crime. This year \$1,374,00 has been awarded to reimburse victims for some of the costs incurred as a result of a crime, such as medical expenses, lost wages, mental health counseling and care, and funeral expenses.

(MORE)

Paul Charlton, the United States Attorney for the District of Arizona, states, "This amount of money is a reflection of the thousands of felony prosecutions this office handles every year. One of the priorities of this office is to make sure we adequately address the needs of victims. In fact, the United States Attorneys Office for the District of Arizona Victim Witness Program was recently nationally recognized during the Department of Justice National Crime Victim's Rights Week. Our office will continue its efforts to make sure the needs of victims are adequately addressed."

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